

HEADQUARTERS  
2nd Battalion, 5th Marines  
1st Marine Division, (Rein) FMF  
FPO San Francisco, California 96602


3/DRD/jrp  
5 April 1966

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, RLT-5  
Subj: Command Chronology Report for period 23 February 1966 to  
5 April 1966

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2  
(b) DivO 5750.2  
(c) CG 1st MARDIV (Rein) 230005Z of March 1966

Encl: (1) Command Chronology

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded in accordance with references (a), (b), and (c). 2/5
2. This command chronology covers the greater part of the organization and training of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines on Okinawa prior to organization and embarkation of BLT 2/5 for deployment to Viet Nam.
3. Administrative orders, training directives, loading and embarkation plans, operation orders, and other supporting directives were previously submitted for the activities concerned in this report.

  
ROBERT H. USKURAIT

23 348 - 5 Apr 66

## ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

I. LOCATION

1. Camp Schwab, Okinawa.

II. PERIOD COVERED BY REPORT

23 February 1966 to 5 April 1966

III. BATTALION ASSIGNMENTS AS OF 5 APRIL 1966

- |                    |                                  |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. CO              | Lieutenant Colonel R.H. USKURAIT |
| 2. XO              | Major L.W.T. WALLER II           |
| 3. S-1             | 1stLt W.M. KAY                   |
| 4. S-2             | Capt R.L. HEMENEZ                |
| 5. S-3             | Major R.A. PAPE                  |
| 6. S-4             | Capt H.T. WINSTON                |
| 7. CO, Company H&S | Capt R.D. HUGHES                 |
| 8. CO, Company E   | Capt J.S. COOPER                 |
| 9. CO, Company F   | 1stLt G.S. BURGETT               |
| 10. CO, Company G  | Capt J.F. O'ROURKE               |
| 11. CO, Company H  | 1stLt J.J. DOHERTY               |

ASSIGNMENTS OF ATTACHMENTS FOR PERIOD 25 MARCH 1966 TO 5 APRIL 1966

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Btry E (Rein) 2/11<br>Det HQ Btry 2/11                                   | Capt F. BUBENHOFFER, JR. |
| 2. 2nd Plt (Rein) Co B<br>3rd Amtrac Bn                                     | 1stLt G.F. TASCONIS      |
| 3. 1st Plt (Rein) Co C<br>1st Tanks Bn                                      | 1stLt L.E. CHERICO       |
| 4. 2nd Plt (Rein) Co B<br>1st AT Bn   | 1stLt W.D. WESTER        |
| 5. 2nd Plt (Rein) Co B<br>1st Engr Bn                                       | 1stLt A.J. LECRONE       |
| 6. 2nd Plt (Rein) Co B<br>1st Recon Bn<br>Det 6th Plt<br>1st Force Recon Co | 2ndLt G.W. JONES         |

7. 2nd Coll Sec (Rein) <sup>Co Rkm</sup> B  
1st MED Bn
8. Log Support Unit 1stLt K.L. CARTER  
Det 1st Ser Bn  
Det 3rd FSR  
~~Det~~ 2nd Land SP Plt  
(Rein) Co B 1st SP Bn  
~~Det~~ 2nd Plt (Rein) CoB 1stLt E. ROSENBERG  
7th MT Bn 1stLt M.W. NEILL

### COMMANDERS NARRATIVE SUMMARY

As covered in the last command chronology report, this battalion arrived on Okinawa on 2 February 1966 and we immediately began an extensive training program. The period of 23 February 1966 to 5 April 1966 was a period of maximum training of units within the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines and the accumulation of supplies needed for Viet Nam. The personnel situation stabilized within the battalion and the degree of unit cohesiveness within the units increased significantly. There were essentially no problems in obtaining support from all agencies concerned with the training syllabus. Although several problems were encountered by the supply and embarkation section, they were relatively minor. The Battalion Landing Team, which was activated on 25 March 1966, is trained to a high degree of readiness; the morale of the Officers and men is high, and we are trained, ready, and eager to become a part of the military force in Viet Nam.

### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

#### A. PERSONNEL

1. The battalion's tour on Okinawa was without significant major personnel changes. The largest influx of personnel was 57 seventeen year olds who were joined on 10 March 1966. Thirty four of these men were transferred prior to deployment.

2. Major Command changes were as follows:

(a) On 4 March 1966, 1stLt W.M. KAY became the S-1 Officer relieving 1stLt D.R. WEST who was transferred from the battalion.

(b) On 10 March 1966, Capt R.A. HICKETHIER, Commanding Officer of Company F, was transferred to the 9th MAB and 1stLt G.S. BURGETT previously the Executive Officer became Commanding Officer of Company F.

(c) On 14 March 1966, 1stLt A.J. BOCUTTI joined the battalion as Motor Transport Officer replacing 1stLt W.E. SMITH who was transferred.

(d) On 18 March 1966, Capt J.S. COOPER joined the battalion and was assigned as the Commanding Officer of Company E replacing 1stLt D.E. MARCUM who was assigned to H&S Company for duty as Liaison Officer with the S-3 section.

3. On 25 February 1966, due to the formation of a scout-sniper platoon, the battalion transferred 30 men to the 5th Marine Regiment.

4. The formation of the 9th MAB caused the transfer of several key personnel. Though an attempt was made to keep these men, only two personnel were retained.

5. On 25 March 1966, BLT 2/5 was activated. Supporting units were attached and 69 non-deployables were transferred to SU #3, HQ Co H&S Bn, FMF PAC.

B. INTELLIGENCE

1. All companies of the battalion received instruction in such areas as mail censorship, password and countersign, civic action, and Viet Nam orientation. Two Officers and Staff briefings were also conducted. Viet Nam situation reports and current intelligence summaries were not readily available to the battalion because of deployments of senior echelons and the physical remoteness of this battalion from the

sources of information.

C. TRAINING

1. From 22 February 1966 until embarkation the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines has conducted extensive field training and field firing. Each company spent eight days attending Counter-Guerrilla Warfare School in the Northern Training Area of Okinawa where formal instruction, patrolling, and a two day guerrilla problem was conducted. All units fired both day and night live firexs using night firing techniques. Units also received instruction and application in the use of the sniper scope. A two day period of instruction at Land Mine and Demolition School plus one days instruction at the Jungle Lanes impressed personnel on the current trends and tips for Viet Nam.

2. The 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines and units which later formed BLT 2/5 had an inspection by the Commanding General 1st Marine Division (Rein), a 5th Marine mount-out drill/inspection, and an address by the Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein), followed by a Battalion Commanders inspection during this period. Personnel from the letter companies plus our supply personnel, attended Helicopter Support Training and a Forward Observer School run by Battery E, 2/11. The school was attended by 34 men from the letter companies and 6 from 81mm mortar platoon.

3. Our 81mm Mortar Platoon and 106 Recoilless Rifle Platoon underwent extensive day and night firing during this period.

4. A 60mm Mortar Section was formed from personnel within the weapons platoon of the letter companies after attending a one week school on the weapon. Improvement in their proficiency and accuracy with the weapon was noted during live firing. All letter companies received one days intensified training in the use of Helicopters in the Camp Schwab and Northern Training Areas. LVT training was conducted in the Camp Schwab

area for all units. The training included procedures for, and application of the LVT's in combat operations.

5. During this period a rifle requalification detail consisting of 161 men who previously were unqualified or failed to requalify last year fired with an impressive 81% qualification.

6. The battalion, with attached units, conducted two command post exercises and a three day battalion field exercise which were beneficial to all concerned.

7. Our tactical air control party conducted live fire operations in the Philippines for approximately a two week period prior to embarkation.

D. COMMAND AND CONTROL

1. CG 1st MARDIV (Rein) message 230005Z activated BLT 2/5 to be effective 250001 March 1966. The operational and administrative control of the BLT was shifted from RL-5 to the 9th MAB on 300101 March 1966 by the same message.

E. SUPPLY, EQUIPMENT, AND EMBARKATION

1. On arrival on 2 February 1966, the battalion turned all its mount-out into Third Force Service Regiment. At this time, the mount-out was 98% complete.

2. Nineteen M-416-B1 trailers which were received prior to leaving CONUS, were embarked as were the M-100 trailers.

3. The following mount-out blocks were received prior to embarkation and deployment to Viet Nam:

- (a) 30 day class I
- (b) 30 day 1st through 3rd echelon class II spares
- (c) 30 day dry cells
- (d) 4 day class III

(e) 30 day class IV

(f) 15 day class V plus basic allowance. (15 day class V on follow-up shipping for a total of a 30 day class II). The BLT was directed to take this amount of class V however only the BA plus 7 days could be loaded. The remaining amount will be in follow-up shipping.

4. No essential T/E or T/A deficiencies existed as evidenced by the fact that over 1900 requisitions were outstanding upon embarkation. The majority of the most critical type 2 items, however, were furnished from on-island assets and all essential supplies and equipment were embarked.

5. Several minor difficulties were encountered during the embarkation planning due to the late receipt of necessary information essential for proper embarkation planning. The vehicle load was changed several times as result of requirement to transport two LCU's to Viet Nam. This requirement was not confirmed until 1 April 1966, the night prior to staging. In addition to this, supplies were arriving as late as 1600 on 3 April 1966.